

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1807

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0307

PASS USDA; BEIRUT INFORM BENSON OF GREAT PLAINS WHEAT

1. MR. ESSEMIANI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OAIC, OFFICE ALGERIEN INTERPROFESSIONNEL DES CEREALES, ASKED ECONOMIC OFFICER TO MEET WITH HIM, JANUARY 31, 1975. AFTER PLEASANTRIES OF HOW HE WANTED TO KEEP IN CLOSER TOUCH NOW WE WERE AN EMBASSY, ESSEMIANI GOT DOWN TO REAL REASON OF VISIT, DIRECT PURCHASE OF U.S. WHEAT.

2. LAST JULY 18, 1974, WHEN OAIC DIRECTOR GENERAL HADJ M. LOUHIBI VISITED WASHINGTON HE RAISED ALGERIAN INTEREST IN DIRECT PURCHASES OF CEREALS FROM U.S. PRODUCERS. ACCORDING TO ALGERIRAN REPORT FROM WHICH ESSEMIANI WAS TALKING, IN JULY LOUHIBI TALKED TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ, MR. HOFFER OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GRAIN COOPERATIVES AND MR. JOSEPH HALOW OF GREAT PLAINS WHEAT, INC. STILL ACCORDING TO ESSEMIANI, SECRETARY BUTZ EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THE IDEA OF DIRECT PURCHASES BY ALGERIA FROM U.S. PRODUCERS. AS ESSEMIANI PUT IT, ALGERIANS HAVE BOUGHT A LOT OF U.S. WHEAT IN 1974 AND THUS SHOWN THEIR GOOD WILL. NOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR RESPONSE TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT CONTACTS

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BETWEEN OAIC AND U.S. GROWERS, ESPECIALLY OUR LARGE

COOPERATIVES. ESSEMIANI EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SUCH CONTACTS FOR LONG, SHORT, BID OR SMALL CONTRACTS. THEY WILL PAY CASH OR CREDIT AS DESIRED. THEY ARE READY TO TALK FOB OR CIF.

3. REPORTING OFFICER PROMISED TO PASS ABOVE INFORMATION ON TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ESSEMIANI IS WAITING FOR RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: ESSEMIANI CLEARLY WANTS AN ANSWER QUICKLY, BUT WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT DESPITE POOR RAINS ALGERIAN NEED FOR CEREAL IMPORTS MUCH MORE STABLE THAN LAST YEAR. ALGERIANS REALLY DO NOT WISH TO DEAL THROUGH MIDDLEMEN. SEE SIMILAR CONVERSATION BETWEEN LOUHIBI AND U.S. DURUM WHEAT EXPERTS, REFTTEL PARA. 4. EMBASSY NEEDS INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO ALGERIANS. CEREALS ARE OUR LARGEST SINGLE EXPORT TO ALGERIA WHICH IS A GOOD CASH MARKET. IF U.S. COOPERATIVES COULD BE IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH OAIC, IT WOULD INCREASE OUR SHARE OF ALGERIAN CEREAL MARKET. PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL IS ALREADY HERE. HOWEVER, U.S. ONLY CEREAL PRODUCER WHO CAN SUPPLY QUANTITIES ALGERIA WANTS, SO REGARDLESS OF OUR RESPONSE SOME MARKET WILL BE AVAILABLE. FINALLY EMBASSY NOTES RICHARD BENSON OF GREAT PLAINS WHEAT IN BEIRUT ARRIVING ALGIERS
FEBRUARY 5, 1975.
PARKER

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